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## Valuable Aid from Socialist Countries

**EDITORS' NOTE:** From August to November 1969, the DRVN Government Economic Delegation led by Mr Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Vice-Premier, successively visited the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic, and concluded with the Governments of those countries agreements on economic and military aid to Viet Nam in 1970. Two other Economic Delegations of the DRVN also visited the German Democratic Republic and the Albanian People's Republic and negotiated with them agreements in favour of Viet Nam.

On December 2, 1969, the DRVN Council of Ministers met to hear a report by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi and a communiqué was later issued in this connection, saying:

THE DRVN Council Ministers welcomed by the hosts in socialist countries, the DRVN Government economic delegation has successfully fulfilled their tasks, it is very happy to note that the DRVN Government and peoples of the various socialist countries have enthusiastically hailed the great and all-round successes of our people in the struggle against US imperialism, the military, political and diplomatic fronts, and held that these brilliant successes had greatly contributed to the movement of the peoples throughout the world against US imperialism. What great contribution our people in the Party and State leaders of the socialist

countries have shown agreement with the appraisal of the situation by our Party Central Committee and Government and with the latter's line and policy on the fight against US aggression, for national salvation. They have severally condemned the obdurate and bellicose stance of the Nixon administration, reaffirmed their solidarity with our people, and voiced their determination to increase all-out support and assistance to our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation till final victory.

"The DRVN Council of Ministers holds that the signing of agreements on economic and military aid

this time is a great and valuable help from the various socialist countries extended in the spirit of proletarian internationalism for our people to strengthen their economic and national defence forces so as to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and continue to push forward our socialist construction. This actively contributes to the consolidation and development of the militant solidarity and friendly co-operation between our country and the fraternal socialist countries.

"The DRVN Council of Ministers expresses the profound and sincere gratitude of the DRVN Government and people to the Parties.

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## PLAF Successes in November

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REFLECTIONS  
ON SON MY

**T**HERE is now enough evidence to affirm safely that far from being an "incident" as claimed by the Nov. 26 communiqué of the White House, Son My was an organized massacre ordered from above and executed in cold blood. To be convinced of this, one needs only to read the horrible confessions made by American soldiers back from Son My, to relieve their conscience. In fact, they had been instructed to raze the village and exterminate all its inhabitants.

We are at present witnessing a real awakening of conscience of ex-GIs in Viet Nam. Every day brings new disclosures:

Terry Reid, belonging to an infantry unit, described how the GIs had raped women and children, terrifying them, how he and his buddies had seen hundreds of bodies sprawling in the fields, including 60 women and children. Then, there were helicopter pilots who fired wantonly on civilians just for fun, and a GI who, to make up for the loss of a watch, had vowed to shoot down a civilian and he had lived up to his words. These are some of the horrible facts that shock the conscience of America. They are, however, very familiar to us, and the

US authorities will have to take to great pains to cover up other atrocities of their troops, especially at Ba Lang An, Kong H'king, etc.

Some of the killings might appear at first sight as mere "incidents." We need only to enquire into the affairs to find the truth buried under that appearance.

"I've brought up my son in the hope to make of him an honest man," said Mrs. Meadlo, mother of a repenting GI having taken part in the Son My massacre. "But they have donned him a uniform and the US Army has trained him into a murderer!"

That is how the origin of all these "incidents" has been brought to light. Young Americans, workers or students full of zeal, have been led from one crime to another by their own leaders. They put a rifle in their hand and said: "Go to Viet Nam and free the population there from the clutches of the Viet Cong man-eaters!" The young man is lost right from that moment. Crimes like the one in Son My wait for them at the turn of the road, inevitably.

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The tractor station at Gia Loc, Hai Hung province, is ready to serve the Winter-Spring rice crop.

## OVER 22,000 FOREIGN CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ON PRESIDENT HO'S DEATH

ACCORDING to incomplete statistics, more than 22,000 messages and letters have been received from abroad, condoling over President Ho Chi Minh's passing away. They were from State leaders, fraternal Parties, various political parties, mass organizations and individuals from 121 countries including 12 socialist countries, 27 countries in Asia, 34 in Africa, 26 in

Latin America, 20 in Europe and 2 in Oceania.

The messages and letters included those sent by the Heads of State or Prime Ministers of 47 countries, 79 communist and workers' parties, trade union organizations in 37 countries, youth and student organizations in 59 countries, women organizations in 36 countries, and 21 international organizations.

Hanoi Press Opinion

## Mr. Stewart's Unsavoury Pact

A universal indignation at the Son My massacre was descending on Nixon and company. A lone man dared come out and raise his small hands against the White House and the Pentagon. He was British. Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart!

Within only a few days after the Son My case was brought to light by American and British papers, Stewart twice played his unsavoury part as counsel for the murderers.

Going on the air on November 23, he said that even if the accusations were vindicated, "they did not mean the American cause was wrong."

Again, he was quoted by AP on November 27 as saying, "American war aims in Viet Nam would remain valid even if reports of the My Lai (Son My) Ed-1 atrocities prove true."

Clearly enough, Mr. Stewart's cynicism, brazenness and ruthless disregard for human life were actuated by an unwavering motive.

The Son My mass killing was viewed by British opinion and by humanity as a whole as a war crime committed by the US aggressors. His statements added evidence to the Wilson Government's serious betrayal of its commitments and responsibility as one of the Big Powers of the United Nations. The Wilson administration's conduct at the Geneva Conference on Viet Nam. The Wilson administration's conduct in the US war in Viet Nam is too well-known to everybody as one of shielding, conniving at, and even tailoring after, and colluding with the US. It has supplied military "advice" and weapons to the US and allowed it to use Hongkong in the "cause". It has approved all US war escalations and readily advertised every US political play. All this has been aimed at more US dollars and support to Britain's colonialist interests east of Suez.

This time, Stewart again showed unusual zeal in defending US crimes. One is wondering what the Wilson administration will get as reward from Nixon. But one thing is certain, it has brought a hornet's nest about its ears.

Wilson, don't lick US boots any more! "Wilson, US puppet!" chanted Britishers in many demonstrations against the US war in Viet Nam.

Bertrand Russell, the famed British philosopher and peace militant, stated in a ten-fold letter to the Labour Government to brazen Americans in Viet Nam (the response of the British Labour Government to brazen Americans in Viet Nam) an abject subservience to the aggressor, and "this government will undoubtedly go down in history as the worst in the history of the Labour Party."

They also know that those crimes originate from the US aggressive war. The Observer on November 23 said that "the reports of the Son My massacre, even if only partly true, are horrifying." They reflect the character of the US war in Viet Nam and the consequence of the US intervention, it added.

Public opinion in Britain, many members of the Wilson administration, such as the Post and Telecommunication Minister John Stonehouse, MP Noel Baker, and many Labour MPs, have been pressing the US to put an end to its aggressive war, and unconditionally and totally withdraw US troops from South Viet Nam.

The British Foreign Secretary has also entirely shocked the cynicism of the Wilson administration's progressive mankind, and intolerably provoked world public opinion.

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One may ask Stewart: What "cause" do the crimes of war and genocide serve and what is their validity? Could the Hitlerite crimes in Oradour and Lidice be separated from their monstrous "cause"? Can there be a "cause" which requires mass murders of old persons, women and children including sucklings? The US aggressors' "cause" referred to by Stewart has been denounced by many British papers themselves.

It does not differ from the "cause" upheld in the past by the British imperialists against the Indians or the Cypriots.

Stewart has cut across the sentiments of the British people. In the past ten-fold days, the British press has been continually putting out reports on the angry British public feeling over the Son My massacre. 65 MPs have signed a motion of protest and urged the Wilson administration to inform the US government of the deep concern of the public in Britain over the affair. On November 23 thousands of Londoners demonstrated in front of the US Embassy, burnt a US flag, shouted "US assassins!", and argued that their government disassociate itself from the US war policy. The British people are aware of the US war crimes in Viet Nam.

Nhan Dan (The People)  
Nov. 29, 1969

## SON MY Survivor's First-hand Account of Massacre

Vo Thi Lien, a 12-year-old girl, who miraculously escaped from the Son My massacre and who is now in North Viet Nam, told of how the hawk devils behaved on that day, March 16, 1968.

THE day had just broken and the sun cast its golden rays on the gleaming white beach of My Hoi, my native hamlet. As usual, on such fine days, the people in My Hoi hamlet got up very early, some preparing for a fishing day, others weaving sleeping mats or mending their nets, others plaiting coconut fibre. Then all of a sudden, artillery fire from the American position on Nui Ram and other positions roared down on the hamlet. Dozens of US helicopters flew in and raked the area with machinegun fire. I called to my grandparents to go into shelter. By now, many houses and trees had been destroyed or slashed down. I thought it was an enemy routine shelling and strafing. But soon afterwards the helicopters came wave after wave and landed American troops in the hamlet.

Hardly had they stepped down when the shouting and gesticulating soldiers began their killing and burning rampage.

There were 13 people in Mr. Le's shelter. 8 of them were shot dead as soon as they reached the opening. The remaining 7 were killed by grenades hurled inside. Mrs. Mot was also cut down as she was getting out from her underground. One of her children who ran screaming behind was also mown down. The murderers also killed the youngest child inside the shelter.

They afterwards went to the shelter of Mrs. Vo Thi Phin, my aunt. They dragged her out and attempted an assault on her. As she resisted furiously, they emptied a full burst of carbine into her neck. Her little child crawled up and sucked at the breast of the dead mother.

The GIs then dumped armfuls of straw on my aunt and her baby and set fire to the heap. In the afternoon when I went to my aunt's shelter, I found two charred bodies, the mouth of the child still at her mother's breast.

Then, the GIs came over to my family's shelter just as my grandmother emerged with a bundle of clothes. They shouted menacingly then

shot at my grandma's chest. Horrified, I could only cry out, "Grandma is dead!" when grenades were tossed into the shelter where grandfather and I were hiding. Before I could reach the outlet a grenade went off and I lost consciousness.

When I came to, I still heard the wild screams of the Yankees. Not until afternoon did I get out of the refuge. Struck with horror, I ran among the burning ruins calling out "Someone still alive?" Only moanings were heard. I ran from one shelter to another, tears rolling down my cheeks. At Mrs. Mai's shelter, both she and her husband were dead. Mrs. Vo Thi Mai, who had just given birth to a baby ten hours earlier, had been gunned down. She lay beside Minh, a 14-year-old boy. Thanh, another boy, had one arm sliced off by a bullet. He was groaning with pain when I arrived. In the shelter of Mr. Tang, I found a still more gruesome spectacle. Mr. Tang had both legs and both arms gone, his body was riddled with bullets. His wife and his sister Suan and a child of the latter were lying dead on the ground. Mrs. Luu, 50, had been stripped naked, shot and flung into the flame. Miss Thiet, her daughter-in-law, was also found lifeless nearby. I came to the shelter of Mrs. Thi to find that six among the seven hiding there had been murdered, the other was seriously wounded.

Five-year-old Anh was bayoneted through his back. At the shelter of Mrs. Trinh, I found blood everywhere. There all the nine occupants were dead. Mrs. Trinh and her four children were laying crumpled, a grenade having torn their bodies to pieces. Mrs. Hoa and her three children had also been killed.

In the shelter of Mrs. Ngan, the killing was even more atrocious. Mrs. Ngo, who was nearing her time, was shot dead, the foetus thrusting its legs from her mother's womb. Three other children were sprawling dead, their heads resting on their mother's arm.

By now it was already past noon. As I was trying to pull out a cousin of mine trapped in a smashed shelter, the Americans again

## NIXON'S CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Excerpts from a communique issued on Nov. 18, 1969 by the South Viet Nam Committee to Denounce US-Puppet War Crimes...

In the past ten months since Nixon took office, a series of delta provinces like My Tho, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, Tra Vinh, Thu Dau Mot, Can Tho, Rach Gia, Soc Trang, Gio Dinh, Ben Hoa, Long An, Long Khau, and Kien Phong, have been regularly attacked with noxious chemicals in high doses. As a result, great losses of life and property have been caused to the population. On February 6, 1969, for example, thousands of hectares of rice fields stretching on over 20 kilometres from Cong Tru district to the capital of Ben Tre province were devastated by chemical agents.

In Tra Vinh province, US "flying cranes" on March 22, 1969 dropped gas bombs on Hoa Hui and on Hoa Hinh A and B hamlets, and the Kien Lon area just across the provincial capital. Over 5,000 people were poisoned. On April 11, US chemical toxins ruined most of the crops and fruit trees on 30 kilometres from Long Thoi village to An Phu Tan village in Can Tho district. In the last week of May, thousands of people in six villages of Cong Long district were affected by chemical poisons which caused vomiting, headache, fever, hemorrhage, etc. In addition, dozens of hectares of fruit trees and food plants were laid waste.

In Soc Trang province, the US in June and July 1969 carried out repeated chemical spraying on Nhat Hoa village

(Phuoc Long district), Long Hung, An Ninh and Ho Duc Kien villages (the chief district), and areas bordering on the provincial capital, devastating tens of thousands of hectares of fruit trees. Moreover, thousands of people were casualties, dozens of them fatalities. All the five members of Mr. An's family, for example, lost their lives.

Most recently, on November 4 and 5, 1969 US aircraft spread toxic chemicals on areas along Highway 20 in Cai Be district, My Tho province. Most of the orchards and crop fields were devastated, and hundreds of people including many old folks and children were seriously affected.

Attacks with chemical products and toxic gas were conducted with particular intensity on Tay Ninh province. On July 18 and 20, 1969 alone, some 5 tons of noxious chemicals were spread on a large area from the Trinh Minh The canal to the southeastern and northeastern ends of Ba Den Mount, affecting over 1,000 people, and killing 30 children. Ninh Thanh and Hiep Ninh villages in the Cao Dai Holy See area were repeatedly sprayed with chemical poisons in the last 20 days of September 1969. On more than 200 occasions, US aircraft including "flying cranes" dumped on these two villages of less than 15 square kilometres thousands

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Another mass murder in 1968 by GIs in Son Tinh, same district in Quang Ngai province (to which Son My belongs).

45th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 4, 1969)

## Mr. XUAN THUY Reviews the Last 44 Sessions

AT the 44th session of the Paris Conference, Minister Xuan Thuy, head of DRVN Government Delegation, reviewed what had been done so far by the Paris Conference in its 45 sessions over the past ten months. He pointed out that until now it has reached no result because the Nixon administration had not yet given up its aggressive stance, continued to prolong the war, maintain the Thieu-Kieu stooge administration as a tool for the carrying out of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, while persisting in its scheme to negotiate from a "position of strength" and in its demand that the Vietnamese people accept peace terms within the framework of US neo-colonialism.

Mr. Xuan Thuy analyzed the contradictions in the so-called "peace plan" of the Nixon administration which said peace would come out through two parallel ways on a double front: "Vietnamization" of the war and "the negotiation in Paris."

The DRVN chief negotiator described the "Vietnamization of the war" as only a scheme to use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, to replace step by step US ground forces by puppet troops, at the same time to keep from 200,000 to 300,000 US supporting and logistic troops in South Viet Nam and maintain the Saigon stooge administration as a tool to implement the aggressive policy in South Viet Nam. By "Vietnamizing the war", the Nixon administration is

not seeking peace as it claims but a military solution to the war in Viet Nam in the hope of using its military strength to end it on its own terms.

The DRVN envoy foretold that Nixon's "Vietnamization" would certainly be defeated because of its many insurmountable contradictions. The US wants to replace the US troops with puppet soldiery but if more than 600,000 US and satellite troops have not been able to subdue the South Vietnamese people, how can the puppet army created by the US and forced to kill its own people successfully assume the US fighting responsibility? How can the war be ended when the US, while professing its willingness to end the war, is maintaining hundreds of thousands of US troops in South Viet Nam? So long as the US aggressors continue to ride roughshod over the Viet Nam soil and massacre the Vietnamese people, the latter are determined to continue their fight till there is not a single aggressor left in their country. Thus, if the war drags on, it is because the Nixon administration still refuses to leave the path of armed aggression in Viet Nam. On the other hand, the US is endeavouring to consolidate the Saigon stooge administration. However, the latter's decaying process is going on, its alienation from the people is worsening and popular discontent against it is growing stronger than ever. In short, the Nixon administration

is not seeking peace as it claims but a military solution to the war in Viet Nam in the hope of using its military strength to end it on its own terms.

As to the path to peace "through the negotiations in Paris" as viewed by the US, Mr. Xuan Thuy pointed out that facts in the past ten months had clearly proved that the Nixon administration only wanted to conduct "negotiations" from strength, i.e. by exerting maximum military pressure on the battlefield combined with attempts to intimidate and deceive the Vietnamese people into acceptance of the US conditions at the conference table. The US has been obstinately persisting in its demand for "mutual troop withdrawal" and a price for the cessation of its aggressive war.

The DRVN representative pointed to the sound proposal for a provisional coalition government to be set up in South Viet Nam to organize free general election and ensure the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. He dismissed professed US respect for the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination as incompatible with its refusal to discuss this problem with the RSVNPRG, the genuine and legal representative of the South Vietnamese people. The US obstinately sticking to its aggressive policy accounts for the deadlock of the Paris Conference, and for this the US must be blamed. Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded.





● The world press has unanimously flayed the US imperialists for the Son My crime. The American papers have been giving before world public opinion, for even naive people cannot believe that by killing children 'the world can be saved from communist danger.' 'The Son My crime is an

before world public opinion, for even naive people cannot believe that by killing children 'the world can be saved from communist danger.' "The Son My crime is an

● In Argentina, all five papers in Buenos Aires on Nov. 27 frontpaged reports on the Son My affair and denounced to public opinion in Argentina the flagitious crimes committed by the American aggressors in South Viet Nam.

**US** armed intervention in Laos goes back to many years. In particular since the bombing halt in North Vietnam, the US imperialists have concentrated their air attacks on this country under the false pretence of sealing off the Ho Chi Minh trail across Laos."

regulars and civil guards engaged in pacification work or in regroupment of inhabitants. Thousands of adversus-soldiers were knocked out. In the Da Nang sector, in the first 5 days of the month, the PLAF daringly struck at more than 40 bases, wiping out in all nearly 80 US and puppet troops and 100 civilians. Nui sector the patriots in the last 20 days of the

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## MILITARY OPERATIONS

## PLAF Successes in November

IN November, the PLAF again caught the US command off its guard with a series of onsets: against the puppet Marine HQ in Rach Gia province, the "Special Forces" camps at Bu Prang and Bu Dop, nearly 600 posts and bases in the Mekong Delta and more than 100 positions, command posts and airfields in the rest of South Viet Nam.

## MORE THAN 4,700 ENEMY CASUALTIES AT BU PRANG-HU LAP AND BU DOP

IN the Western High Plateaux, in spite of all enemy efforts to strengthen its support bases and increase the use of bombers, especially by B-52's, the camps which are part of his "forward defense" system continued to be targets of devastating strikes.

1) Bu Prang, about 178 km North-Northeast of Saigon, the enemy who had been forced to abandon 30 km Nov. 1 then took sound beatings. Between Nov. 2 and Nov. 5, more than 600 US and puppet troops were wiped out and dozens of others captured Southwest of Duc Lap. Among these casualties were US pilots and "advisers."

In an attempt to relieve Bu Prang, completely isolated, 2 puppet battalions were moved in as reinforcements. Engaged in furious fighting and sustaining heavy losses, these two units held their retreat on Nov. 8, leaving the "Special Forces" to fend for themselves. The Americans made a new try by hurling into the scene the understrength puppet Regiment No 47 supported by a US paratroop battalion transferred from Phan Rang to Ban Me Thuot. The new-comers had to regroup

themselves at Hill 902, 8 km West of Bu Prang, thereby exposing themselves to the blows of the patriotic forces. In 3 days, from Nov. 13 to Nov. 15, 85 per cent of the combat strength of this unit were destroyed, with 800 men killed or wounded.

The following days, the PLAF kept up its harassment, particularly from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, they put more than 400 adverse troops out of action, brought down 12 aircraft and destroyed 5 artillery pieces.

All told, between Oct. 28 and Nov. 20 on the Bu Prang-Duc Lap front, the PLAF knocked out nearly 3,500 enemy soldiers including nearly 200 GIs. Remarkably enough, all the 3 regiments of puppet Division 13 which ensured the defence of this sector sustained heavy losses. Regiment 47 was the hardest hit.

The enemy also lost 76 helicopters and planes, about 30 artillery pieces, 63 military vehicles and dozens of arms, munitions and other military deposits.

Fighting in close co-ordination with PLAF operating in the Bu Prang-Duc Lap sector, those in Phouc Long province, the Bu Dop "Special Forces" camp, 133 km North of Saigon under constant fire, in 9 days (Nov. 3-8 and 11 and from Nov. 15 to 20) they exacted a toll of more than 1,800 US and puppet troops, inflicting serious losses upon a First Air Cavalry base, several US encampments and 2 puppet Ranger companies. In addition, they destroyed 18 helicopters, 64 vehicles and 10 command mortars.

The patriots also pounded the Plei Can-Ben Het camp, 254 km North of Duc Lap and decimated several companies moving out on a

relief mission. The PLAF also stepped up their activities on communication lines, such as Highways 1, 21 and 19. In particular on the section of Highway 19 West of Mang Yang Pass, the enemy, attacked more than a dozen times, lost more than 100 vehicles and more than 300 men. The enemy rear bases were not immune from assaults either. On the night of Nov. 15, the PLAF overran the Tan Tao airfield in Pleiku, destroying 26 aircraft, and disabling more than 100 enemy soldiers among them a large number of officers and technicians.

In the provinces of Binh Long and Tan Dau Mot, the PLAF also erased several US encampments near Dau Tieng (Nov. 3 and 11) and at Coc Ruoi (Nov. 7 and 13), destroying 30 vehicles including 76 tanks and wiping out hundreds of GIs.

## NEARLY 15,000 ADVERSE CASUALTIES IN THE DELTA AND URBAN AREAS

BEGINNING with the simultaneous overnight attacks of Nov. 5, 6 and 7, the November offensive against the puppet forces directed against a whole series of positions, posts, base camps and military sub-sectors, chiefly in the Mekong Delta where, under the plan for the "Vietnamization of the war," the Americans had shifted over to the puppet troops the main war burden.

In Rach Gia province, about 1,600 enemy troops were put out of action, 70 of them on the Xeo Ro canal on the night of Nov. 5 when the PLAF blotted out a puppet marine HQ.

The following days, the PLAF of Ben Tre, My Tho, An Giang, Rach Gia, Go Cong, Kien Phong and Kien Tung provinces raided nearly 300 positions, inflicting more than 10,000 casualties including hundreds of US "advisers." These provinces, especially Ben Tre, My Tho and An Giang, constitute for the enemy key "pacification" areas, and all 3 puppet divisions, the 7th, 9th and 21st, which had been assigned this task were seriously mauled.

In November, in the Tri-Thien-Hue area, South Viet Nam's Northernmost sector, the enemy kept "pacifying" Trung 0, the PLAF also mounted many attacks on US infantrymen and paratroops as well as on puppet

## GIs' ANTI-WAR ACTIONS

● In 1968 there were over 60 cases of GIs in Viet Nam disobeying orders, demanding repatriation, shooting at their commanders, burning down storehouses or rebelling in detention camps (including six cases of killing of COs). The rebellion of 750 GIs detained at Long Binh (20 km northeast of Saigon) in November 1968 ended with 35 casualties. The *Nation* and *The Guardian* have reported that at present 10,500 anti-war GIs are kept in jail and given ill-treatment.

● The most dramatic war protest by GIs occurred on Dec. 17, 1968, when over 3,000 US servicemen stationed at Dong Du (30 km northwest of Saigon) staged an action lasting many days for the withdrawal of US troops.

● According to the *New York Times*, the American servicemen are more and more disgruntled at the Viet Nam war. In many military bases and positions, they have set up underground organizations and written newspaper articles and leaflets calling on their mates to oppose Nixon's unjust

war of aggression in Viet Nam.

● On Nov. 15, 1969, 300 GIs of the 34th artillery intergroup, ground units and military police at Phuoc Vinh base (60 km north-northeast of Saigon) demonstrated for an end of the Viet Nam war and complete withdrawal of US troops, by wearing black arm-bands sitting on 26 armored cars.

● In mid-November 1969, at Long Binh, a dentist in Medical Team No 38 filed with Nixon an antiwar petition signed by 123 artillerymen, MPs and military surgeons and 30 officers including a lieutenant colonel and two majors.

● On Thanks-giving Day (Nov. 27, 1969) 600 GIs staged a hunger strike as an anti-war action.

● At the field hospital No 71 in Pleiku (278 km north-northeast of Saigon) about 100 officers, soldiers and surgeons fasted at the traditional dinner (Nov. 27) in disapproval of the Viet Nam war. They wrote Nixon a long letter bearing hundreds of signatures to explain the motive of their protest.

## AN UNCOMMON TRIAL

It is reported from Saigon that on Nov. 28, 1969, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique summoned before the special military court 43 people on charges of "treason," "complicity with traitors," "spying for the Viet Cong" and "harming national security." Among the accused were Huynh Van Trong, a Thieu's former advisor for security and home affairs, Vu Ngoc Nha, one of his counselors, Le Huu Thuy, chief of the secretariat of the Open Arms Ministry of the puppet government, two journalists, 13 women and a number of officials of the same Ministry.

Before the tribunal Huynh Van Trong refuted all the charges against him, saying he was but "Thieu's scapegoat." Vu Ngoc Nha said he had been a close collaborator of Nguyen Van Thieu. The others also rejected all accusations against them.

Nevertheless, Huynh Van Trong, Vu Ngoc Nha, Le Huu Thuy and others were sentenced to life imprisonment; 39 others got prison terms ranging from 3 months to 20 years' hard labour.

According to the same source, this was a special tribunal in which there were no investigating but only police interrogations, no appeal, no dismissal expected from this trial which on the contrary showed that even their people's leaders were closest collaborators, did not see eye to eye with them and had to be dealt with fascist methods.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta was unable to bring anything to light as they had expected from this trial which on the contrary showed that even their people's leaders were closest collaborators, did not see eye to eye with them and had to be dealt with fascist methods.

## Latest News

ON the night of Dec. 2, the PLAF hammered at about sixty targets in the Mekong Delta, South of Saigon, south of the Western High Plateaux and Da Nang region. Western agencies reported 58 enemy bases and positions were bombarded, some of them with "serious losses in men and materials." The targets hit by PLAF artillery included the HQ of puppet Infantry Division 7 at My Tho, the bases of Phan

Rang, Dau Tieng, Bu Prang and Duc Lap, respectively 60 km southwest, 265 km north-northeast, 64 km northwest, 178 km north-northeast and 208 km northwest.

PLAF men also struck at the Tuyen Binh subsector C1 695 km west-northwest of Saigon, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, and on other positions and cut off Highway No. 4 linking Saigon to the provinces in the Mekong Delta.

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